

16"x 12" Interpretive Plate w/Medallion
Jefferson County - 4/23/74 - SH 124, 12 miles
SW of Beaumont in the Village of Fannett.

DM

DUGAT-HAMSHIRE HOUSE

BUILT BY ALCAD DUGAT (1847-1921),
AN ACADIAN FARMER, SHEEP-RAISER,
AND FURNITURE-MAKER. THE HOUSE,
OF TRADITIONAL ACADIAN PLANTATION
ARCHITECTURE WITH VICTORIAN DETAIL,
WAS ERECTED IN TWO STAGES. THE
SMALLER WING WAS BUILT IN 1876,
AND THE MAIN HOUSE COMPLETED IN
1888. THE DUGAT HOME SERVED AS
AN INN FOR TRAVELERS ON THE OLD
BEAUMONT-GALVESTON ROAD.

THE PROPERTY WAS PURCHASED IN
1924, BY JOSEPHINE HAMSHIRE, WHOSE
HEIRS OWNED THE HOUSE UNTIL 1959.

RECORDED TEXAS HISTORIC LANDMARK - 1974

Incise on Back: SPONSOR: MR. & MRS. JOHN KEY AND ALPHA DELTA SIGMA CHAPTER
OF BETA SIGMA PHI

APPLICATION FORM FOR OFFICIAL TEXAS HISTORICAL MARKER

County Jefferson Date October 10, 1973

1. Historic building, once a way station for travellers and herdsman taking
Marker title or subject cattle to salt grass; also home of Acadian furniture maker.
2. Dugat-Hamshire House
Name of building, cemetery, public square, park, etc., where marker is to be placed 4031
3. One-eighth mile off Hwy. 124 near Fannett on old Beaumont to Galveston road,
Marker site (street address or highway number) now unused by through traffic.
4. On old Beaumont to Galveston highway one-eighth mile off present Hwy. 124
City or nearest city. If marker is to be placed on a highway or in a small community, you must briefly explain how to get there from the nearest town shown on a current Texas road map. For example, "Marker will be in Bastrop Beach, which is 6 miles southeast of Angleton on FM 523."
5. Fifty feet from structure to be marked (in front yard)
Distance (miles, yards, feet) and direction (north, south, east, west, northeast, etc.) of subject from marker site. For example, "Subject is 1/2 mile southwest of marker site."
6. Mr. and Mrs. John Key Rt. 2, Box 295-P, Beaumont, Texas 77705
Owner of marker site Address City
7. Mr. and Mrs. John Key and Alpha Delta Sigma Chapter Rt. 2, Box 295-P
Sponsor of marker of Beta Sigma Phi Address Beaumont, Texas 77705
8. W. M. Hibert P. O. Box 62 Nederland, Texas 77627
Endorsement of county chairman Address City
9. Mr. and Mrs. John Key, Rt. 2, Box 295-P, Beaumont, Texas 77705
Person to whom marker is to be shipped Street Address City

Note: If marker is to be placed on a highway right-of-way, it will automatically be shipped to your district highway engineer.

ORDER FORM

Please consult the marker catalog for specifications of the markers, paperweights, and signs available. Then check the items desired below.

HISTORICAL MARKERS

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 27" x 42" subject marker with post \$400 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 16" x 12" building marker with post \$ 95 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 27" x 42" subject marker without post \$375 | <input type="checkbox"/> 16" x 12" building marker without post \$ 80 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 18" x 28" subject marker with post \$200 | <input type="checkbox"/> 16" x 12" building plaque only \$ 60 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 18" x 28" subject marker without post \$175 | <input type="checkbox"/> 14" medallion only (for replacement purposes) \$ 20 |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> 16" x 12" grave marker (comes with mounting bar) \$ 80 |

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OCT 17 1973

MARKER REPLICA PAPERWEIGHT

This item should be ordered at the same time marker is ordered. Indicate quantity desired.

3" x 4" plastic paperweight with replica of marker inside \$ 25

HISTORICAL FOUNDATION

SCOTCHLITE HIGHWAY DIRECTIONAL SIGNS

- Please indicate quantity desired.
- 24" x 24" **Historical Markers In City** sign \$ 25
- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> black-and-white (for state highways, U.S. highways) | <input type="checkbox"/> 18" x 22" Historic Route sign (in black and white only) \$ 25 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> green-and-white (for interstate highways) | <input type="checkbox"/> with arrow pointing straight ahead |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> with arrow pointing left |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> with arrow pointing right |

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OCT 17 1973

Mail this application and your narrative history, together with a check made payable to the Texas Historical Foundation,
to TEXAS STATE HISTORICAL SURVEY,

Research Department
Texas Historical Commission
P.O. Box 12276
Austin, Texas 78711

COMMITTEE

Please note that no applications will be accepted unless payment is included. You will be notified as soon as possible if your application is approved. If it is not approved, your check and other material will be returned. In general, at least 90 days are required to process and manufacture an historical marker. For rush orders, a surcharge of 50 percent over and above the regular price will be assessed to cover the cost of special handling. Under no circumstances will applications be accepted for processing in less than 45 days.

THE DUGAT-HAMSHIRE HOUSE

Researched by Mrs. R. M. Wingate
Route 2, Box 319
Beaumont, Texas 77705

The old Dugat-Hamshire house stands on land patented to the heirs of Silas R. Perkins, who homesteaded 160 acres there. The patent from the State of Texas issued after his death to his heirs, is dated March 1, 1875.¹ Just over a year later, on April 5, 1876, Jiles Dugat, Sr., acquired the deed to the land from Martha Perkins, widow of Silas. But the deed states that Dugat had been living on the land for some time prior to the transfer.²

In a division of Jiles Dugat's estate after his death, his widow, Eloise, deeded Alcad Dugat, one of her sons, the Perkins land on Dec. 30, 1886.³ But at least seven years before that Alcad Dugat had begun the building to the house that is still there in nearly its original state.

He moved on the land long before the legal transfer of ownership and built a barn in which the family lived until he could build a small three-room structure that would later serve as a kitchen. Then, in 1888, in time for Elize, his youngest daughter to be born in that house, Alcad Dugat completed the typically Acadian building that stands today.⁴

After Dugat died, his widow, Josephine Guidry Dugat, sold the place and 36 acres of land to Josephine Barus Hamshire, widow of Jacob Hamshire, on January 25, 1924.⁵

Mrs. Hamshire lived in the house until 1938, when she moved to Beaumont to reside with her daughter, Eve Bordages (Mrs. Louis Bordages). At her death the house went to that daughter.⁶ Excluded from that deed was 15 acres of land and a home Mrs. Hamshire had built for her granddaughter, Mrs. Ethel Busbee.⁷

However, on July 30, 1949, Mrs. Busbee was deeded the remainder of

the 36 acres and the old house.⁸ After she too moved to Beaumont it was used as a rent house for a time.

On March 6, 1959, I. W. and Lula E. Haralson bought the place⁹ and lived in it until on September 30, 1968; they sold it to the present owners, Mr. and Mrs. John Key, Jr.¹⁰

The Dugat-Hamshire house was built in stages. The barn, demolished several years ago, was built long before the Dugats acquired title to the land, and they lived in it for a time until Alcad Dugat built a three-room structure about 1876. They lived in it until he completed a larger house alongside it in late 1888. Mrs. Matile Kahla, daughter of Alcad Dugat, who is now nearly 90, remembers that they moved into the new house just before the birth of the youngest Dugat child, Elize, in December of 1888.¹¹

The oldest part of the old home, then, will be 100 years old in 1976, since the two parts are now joined together.

The old home was built on the old Beaumont to Galveston road, at Fannett, then known as Taylor's Bayou. The site was accessible both from the bayou and by road, such as it was then. There is no way to determine whether Dugat intended to supply lodging for travellers when he built the place, but it was a convenient stop for travellers coming from Beaumont or cattlemen taking their herds to the Gulf Coast salt grass for the winter. Beds were supplied for the travellers at 50 cents a night, said Mrs. Kahla.

The place was also close to a supply of hardwood of hardwood for the furniture^{-making} with which Dugat supplemented his small income from farming, sheep, a syrup mill and the overnight stop. Wood for his syrup cooking kettles was also easily available. The bayou and the road were early travel routes for settlers who were in that area by 1825.

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Builder of the old home was Alcad Dugat, who migrated with his parents Jiles And Eloise Dugat from Acadia Parish, Louisiana. On the 1860 census for Jefferson county, he appears as a 12-year old.¹² However, he returned to Louisiana later, married Josephine Guidry and returned to Taylor's Bayou to build the old home, beginning the earliest part in 1876.¹³

According to Alcad Dugat's tombstone he was born January 12, 1847, and died Sept. 26, 1921.¹⁴ He is buried in the Landrum cemetery near Fannett along with other members of his family. Alcad and his wife had eight daughters and one son, all of whom worked hard at the chores that were always waiting on his small farm.

The couple, Alcad and his wife, had eight daughters and one son, of whom only Mrs. Matile Kahla of Stowell survive. In the little barn which Alcad built before he built either part of the house he had his furniture shop with his hand tools and a foot-propelled lathe. Many families in the Taylor's Bayou area treasure rawhide-bottomed chairs and other furniture made by Dugat. Mrs. Kahla has a dining room table made by her father and a massive four-poster bed, made by her grandfather, Jiles Dugat.¹⁵

The Dugat home was well known, and many suitors came a-courting the eight daughters. When it was syrup making time the skimmings were allowed to ferment, and people came from all around for a dance. Alcad Dugat or his brother Joseph, who was also postmaster, were the callers for the dance, and their cousin Chalite played the accordion or the fiddle.

Josephine Hamshire, who bought the house in 1924, was the widow of Jacob Hamshire of an early cattle raising family of Bolivar Peninsula, and the daughter of early Taylor's Bayou settlers Jean Pierre Barus and Eliza Elliott Barus. Mrs. Hamshire was born August 17, 1851, and died

June 14, 1940. She bore three children to Jacob Hamshire before he died in May of 1881. Her two sons died, and her one other child, Eve, married Louis Bordages, a first cousin.¹⁶ She owned a few cattle, hogs, and chickens and raised a garden. She smoked all her own meat in a smokehouse. Her brother John "Uncle Bud" Barus stayed with her and occupied the attic room.

The Dugat-Hamshire house, which has been changed very little since it was built, was almost wholly the work of Alcad Dugat. It was built of heart pine hauled by wagon and mule team from Beaumont about 18 miles away. It was put together with square nails and pegs. The first part of the house in which the family lived while he built the main house contained three rooms and a pantry or storage space. It later became the kitchen and dining area separate from the main house which contained the parlor, a large bedroom which contained a fireplace and two smaller bedrooms.

An outside stairway entered from a porch covered by the same roof as the rest of the house climbed to an attic room or grenier in which paying overnight visitors often slept. Architecture of the old house is typically Acadian, with its steep roof covering the front porch and the attic room. Many of the homes of that period built by Acadians who migrated to Texas from Louisiana were of that style.

The house has been altered very little since it was built. The fireplace was removed, probably during the ownership of Josephine Hamshire, and the earliest part, or old kitchen wing was joined to the main house by the Haralsons in the early 1960's. The original flawed glass remains in the windows; handmade doors with ~~white~~ china knobs are still there; and original worn treads remain on stairway to the attic.

In the original wing two rooms have become bedrooms, and the small kitchen remains. In the main part the large bedroom has become a den,

and one of the smaller bedrooms a kitchen with built-in cabinets installed also by the Haralsons. Bathrooms were also installed by them in the dogtrot area which joined the once separate structures and at the end of a lean-to porch added onto the back during Josephine Hamshire's time. The old home is still on its original site.

The home is in excellent condition and is cherished by its present owners the John Key family, who have an awareness of its historical value. They live there and are responsible for its upkeep.

The principal role the old home has played in the community is perhaps that it was well known as a way stop on the Beaumont to Galveston road, although it was also well known as the Alcad Dugat home where furniture was made and where many local farmers took their cane to be ground and made into syrup. Many people from nearby communities attended dances there, and Alcad Dugat was well-known as a caller for dances.

The structure should be commemorated with a marker because of the typically Acadian architecture, still in unusually good condition with few alterations; because it was a well known stop for travellers and cattlemen driving their herds to salt grass; and because Dugat himself was a furniture maker with a local reputation, and many of the pieces he made are still treasured by people in the Taylor's Bayou area.

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Stowell, Texas
September 22, 1973

I, Mrs. Matile Kahla, 89 years old, am the daughter of Alcad and Josefina Dugat, who built the house in Fannett known as the old Dugat place or the Josephine Hamshire place.

My father, Alcad, got the land from his mother Eloise as a part of the estate of his father Jiles. The present house was completed in late 1888, just before my youngest sister Elize was born in December of that year.

But before that they lived in a sort of barn and in about 1876 he built a three-room structure that they lived in and that would later be the kitchen.

The house was an overnight stop for cattle herders and other travellers who paid 50 cents a night for a bed. Cattle drovers often stopped there and cooked outside.

My father, Alcad, was also well known around the Taylor's Bayou area as a furniture maker, and many old families still have raw-hide bottom chairs made by him.

Minor changes have been made in the house since it was built: bathrooms added, the kitchen wing joined to the main house and a lean-to back porch added, as well as the fireplace being removed.

Matile Kahla

Mrs. Matile Kahla

Documentation for Dugat-Hamshire House

- 1 Patent from State of Texas to S. R. Perkins Heirs for 160 acres of land in Jefferson County dated March 1, 1875. Vol. Q, p. 623, Jefferson County Deed records.
- 2 Deed from Martha Perkins, widow of Silas R. Perkins, to Jiles Dugat, dated April 5, 1876. Book R, p. 539-40, Jeff. Co. Deed records.
- 3 Deed from Eloise Dugat, widow of Jiles Dugat, Sr., to Alcad Dugat for 160 acres of land in Silas Perkins Svy., dated Dec. 30, 1886. Vol. Y, p. 341, Jeff. Co. Deed records.
- 4 Affidavit by Mrs. Matile Dugat Kahla on Sept. 22, 1973, attesting to date the house was completed.
- 5 Deed from Josephine Guidry Dugat to Josephine Hamshire dated Jan. 25, 1924, for 36 acres of land in Silas Perkins Svy., Vol. 234, p. 176, Jeff. Co. Deed records.
- 6 Probate File #7513, Estate of Mrs. Josephine Hamshire. Vol. 78, p. 599, Jeff. Co. Probate records.
- 7 Ibid.
- 8 Deed from Mary Eve Bordages to Mrs. Ethel Busbee for remainder of 36 acres, 15 of which she had gotten previously, and old house. Vol. ~~1159~~ 742, p.367, Jeff. Co. Deed Records.
- 9 Deed from Mrs. Ethel Busbee to I. W. and Lula E. Haralson dated March 6, 1959. Vol. 1159, p. 605, Jeff. Co. Deed records.
- 10 Deed from I. W. and Lula E. Haralson to John H. Key, Jr., and Wife Nelle, dated Sept. 30, 1968. Vol. 1567, p. 397, Jeff. Co. Deed records.
- 11 Signed affidavit by Mrs. Matile Kahla, who was born in 1883, only surviving daughter of Alcad and Josephine Dugat.
- 12 1860 Jefferson County census.
- 13 Interview with Mrs. Matile Kahla, Sept. 10, 1972.
- 14 Record on Alcad Dugat's tombstone in Landrum Cemetery near Fannett.
- 15 Interview Mrs. Matile Kahla in her Stowell home, Sept. 10, 1972.
- 16 Affidavit by Louis Bordages, son-in-law of Josephine Hamshire in August, 1945.



